

REMARKS

In the present Application, forty-one (41) claims were originally filed. Claims 1-17, 19-35, and 40-41 currently stand rejected, and claims 36-38 are allowed. Claim 18 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 18 is amended, and claims 1-17, 19-35, and 40-41 are cancelled herein. Applicants respectfully request that the Application be reconsidered in light of the present amendments and accompanying remarks.

Cancellation Of Rejected Claims

In the Office Action of September 30, 2005, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-17, 19-35, and 40-41 remain rejected. Because of the Applicants' wish to expedite the allowance and issuance of the present Application, Applicants therefore refrain from further discussing the cited references, and instead, herein cancel currently rejected claims 1-17, 19-35, and 40-41 without prejudice to thereby place the Application in condition for immediate allowance.

The Applicants expressly state that the rejected claims 1-17, 19-35, and 40-41 are not cancelled or amended herein for reasons of patentability. The rejected claims 1-17, 19-35, and 40-41 are cancelled or amended solely to expedite the allowance and issuance of the Application. Furthermore, the Applicants also reserve the right to seek allowance of any additional claims in

Applications that may claim priority in the present Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 52 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 36-39 are allowed. In addition, in paragraph 53 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants therefore herein amend claim 18 in independent form to include the limitations of the corresponding base claim 14, to thereby place claim 18 in condition for immediate allowance.

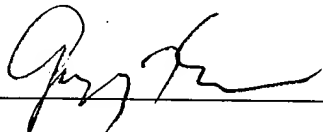
Summary

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections. Because the cited references, or the Examiner's citations thereto, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and in light of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, Applicants therefore submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 18 and 36-39, so that the present Application may issue in a timely manner. If there are any questions concerning this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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